

Community resilience, incorporating food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene in Zimbabwe

End of Grant report for the Isle of Man
Cabinet Office Political Group

Name of project:	Community Resilience, incorporating Food Security and Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, in Zimbabwe
Project Code:	Ref: SG001.15
Location:	Zimbabwe, Mwenezi district in Masvingo province and Chipinge district in Manicaland province
IoM contribution:	£32,089
Project Period:	February 2016 – January 2017

Aims and Objectives

The project has rehabilitated 24 boreholes and also trained 24 water point committees on water point management and finance. Around 6,000 people have benefitted from the boreholes rehabilitation. The trained committees are actively collecting funds from committee members for maintenance and making sure that the water points are clean and that good hygiene practices are maintained at each point.

The project also drilled three new boreholes in Chipinge district, two at the Centre of Excellence to irrigate the demonstration plots, and one next to the Mabhiza School in Chipinge. Almost 1,500 children and teachers attending the school have benefited from the water point as it ensures consistent water supply to the school which has resulted in relief for both the students and the teachers who previously spent a significant amount of their time searching for water.

100 ZRCS volunteers were trained in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE). This training provided volunteers with skills to conduct hygiene awareness sessions in the community and at schools. The training also helped the establishment of health clubs in the community and schools. To date the volunteers have been conducting household visits as well as in schools providing education on hygiene.

Background & context

Zimbabwe is a low-income country with a GDP of US\$13.66 billion (2014) and a population of about 13 million. The national poverty rate is at 62.6 percent with the rural poverty rate of 76 percent. Agriculture in Zimbabwe contributes to 19 percent of the country's GDP. Approximately 80 percent of Zimbabweans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and the agricultural activities are mainly rain fed.

Zimbabwe continues to experience recurrent food shortages and trends over the years have shown an increase in vulnerability especially in rural areas: this will be further exacerbated by climate change. While Zimbabwe has made significant food security and nutrition gains compared to the last decade, the current situation remains highly dependent upon increasingly erratic rainfall patterns with an average of about one million people estimated to be food insecure every year. Safety-net interventions by the Government and partners are limited and humanitarian assistance is expected to be lower than average in the coming years due to a number of worldwide humanitarian crises.

Zimbabwe welcomed the arrival of the rainy season in later November 2016, following a specifically dry spell for much of the previous year. Currently the forecast for crop production is positive, although parts of the south of Zimbabwe have been affected by heavy rains and flooding since the end of 2016. Zimbabwe has also been affected by an outbreak of a crop pest that can have a serious impact on food security within the country. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) is working closely with their partners and the Government to respond to the flooding supporting households with emergency shelter kits and WASH items.

Project activities

Objective 1: 24 water points rehabilitated

The ZRCS WATSAN Coordinator working with Government's District Development Fund (DDF) staff members visited the six targeted wards under the project and identified 24 water points that needed to be rehabilitated. The water point assessments were critical in identifying resources that the community could provide (sand and bricks) for the construction of water troughs and aprons – obtainable and relatively inexpensive materials ensure sustainability as communities are able to replace or source materials if replacements are needed.

Together with the DDF, ZRCS also mobilised the water point committees for each point and provided them with refresher training outlining the objectives of the committee and the various roles and responsibilities.

At the end of 2016 ZRCS succeeded in rehabilitating 24 water points in both districts (4 in each of the six wards). These rehabilitations have been welcomed by communities and the Government especially during the drought period as most of the communities reported that they were travelling more than 5km in search of water. The rehabilitation has also helped in reducing the potential of diarrheal diseases as ZRCS have observed from some interviews whereby communities were accessing water from rivers and streams.

Objective 2: 24 water point committees trained

During the first year of the project, 24 water point committees were trained in Community Based Management (CBM) of water points. The training was conducted by representatives from the District Water and Sanitation Sub Committee (DWSSC) which includes the District Development Fund (DDF), Rural District Council, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Social Services department and Environmental Management Agency. The training received included guidance on water point management and finance management. The water point committees have implemented a system to collect a fee from all the water point users for operations and maintenance. The fee is managed by the committee and given to the DDF.

Objective 3: One borehole drilled

The water point assessment identified the need of three new boreholes to be drilled in Chipinge.

One borehole was drilled at Mabhiza primary school in Checheche, in Chipinge. The school supports a total number of 1,413 children (706 females and 707 males), 37 teaching staff and the surrounding communities of approximately 2.5 km within the school radius.

Two other boreholes identified in the assessment, were drilled are at the centre of excellence in Chipinge for irrigation of the demonstration plots where lead farmers will be trained on climate-smart agriculture and other techniques.

Objective 4: 60 volunteers trained in PHHE

By the end of 2016, ZRCS had trained 100 volunteers in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE). The objective of the training was to provide volunteers with skills to conduct hygiene awareness sessions in the community and at schools. The training helped with the establishment of health clubs in the community and in schools. The hygiene promotion sessions teach participants best practice around hygiene behaviour. The volunteers have been conducting household visits providing education on hygiene sessions in schools.

The 100 volunteers trained in PHHE are currently cascading the training to communities with each volunteer establishing their own community hygiene clubs. To ensure sustainability and consistency each volunteer will be provided with periodical refresher training.

Timeframe

The project was executed in line with the proposed plan. The project completed the rehabilitation of the 24 boreholes identified in the water point assessment by the end of 2016. In 2016 the target was to train 60 volunteers on PHHE and by the end of December 100 volunteers received training.

Replication

The initial assessment of water points needs was essential for the success of the WASH component. Part of the success was the collaboration between ZRCS WATSAN Coordinator working with Government's District Development Fund staff.

It is recommended that the design of the water points take into account who is going to operate the pump and consider including solar pumps specially for the water pumps in schools to facilitate the use by the children.

The training on health and hygiene is an essential activity of WASH component. These interventions are easily replicable in other communities and the impact in the health of the communities is wide spread.

Beneficiaries supported and community involvement

The Community Resilience Programme is expected to reach at least 5,000 households (25,000 beneficiaries) overall by the end of the 5 years of implementation. To date ZRCS has managed to register 2,000 beneficiaries (1,000 in each of the 2 districts).

The WASH activities have reached 7,413 beneficiaries in total. Approximately 6,000 people will use the newly reconstructed water points plus 1,413 children and 37 teachers will now use the new drilled borehole at Mabhiza School

Each water point has a committee formed by community members that are responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the water point as well as putting into place a system that allows them to collect a fee from the users of the water point for spare parts and

maintenance. Water point committees meet regularly and committee members are present when ZRCS visits the water point.

Liaison with relevant authorities

ZRCS works closely with different government authorities. The Government's District Development Fund staff members were involved in the assessment of the water point needs on the six targeted wards of the project.

Additionally, the District Water and Sanitation Sub Committee (DWSSC) facilitated the training for the water point committees. The DWSSC includes District Development Fund, Rural District Council, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Social Services department and the Environmental Management Agency.

Sustainability

The project is working with community members to ensure project ownership. The training of water point committees ensures project sustainability at the end of the funding. The trainings that were given to the committees were to provide them with the necessary skills to work effectively and maintain their water points without outside assistance.

The emphasis on community based management goes a long way in ensuring that communities are able to set up a fund in which they contribute to so that they can purchase spare parts on their own. The ZRCS did not conduct the trainings but rather made use of local experts in the area. This was a deliberate move to link communities with their local government departments so that their relationships are cemented and maintained even when ZRCS exits the communities.

The British Red Cross Country Manager and Health Advisor visited Chipinge district in February 2017 as part of the regular monitoring visits. They visited two water points, and met with the respective committees. The water points were cleaned, well maintained, in high demand and operational.

Monitoring and evaluation

A Project Monitor and Evaluation (PMEAL) manager is based in Harare, and will be supported with a full-time PMEAL officer in 2017. ZRCS reports quarterly and annually to BRC the progress of the project.

A Mid-term evaluation of the whole programme is scheduled to take place in 2018. This evaluation will seek to address the progress and impact of the project.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Water and Sanitation element of this programme addressed the following Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG3 – Good health and well-being –clean drinking water and associated hygiene practices will contribute to improved health and wellbeing

SDG6 – Clean water and sanitation – safe water will reduce the risk of contracting waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhea

The overall programme also addresses:

SDG1 – No poverty

SDG8 – Decent work and economic growth

The project provided clean water to more than 7,400 people. The main benefits were that females spend less time was collecting water allowing them to attend schools or do other income generating activities. It also helped to reduce the incident of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases transmitted by water from non-clean sources and lack of knowledge on how to treat that water.

Case Study

Volunteering for the Water Committee in Kondo Village



Memory Tamisai last saw her husband 10 months ago. The devastating drought left him unable to make a living as a farmer in southern Zimbabwe and he moved to South Africa to find work.

The 27-year-old is raising their two children in a small mud hut in the rural village of Kondo. *"It's been such a struggle, the drought caused all the harvests here in Kondo to fail last year which meant farmers like my husband didn't earn any money. My children and I were surviving on a meal in the evening and sometimes a bowl of porridge for breakfast",* explains Memory.

The community's borehole broke down for six months which also put a huge strain on the family.

"While ours was broken we had to walk to another borehole and back twice a day – which is about 14km. It took most of the day and it was very tiring, meaning we had no energy to work and raise money."

But now the borehole is up and running again thanks to a ZRCS community resilience programme. The project aims to improve lives through a number of interventions including the provision of safe water and improved sanitation.

Key to the success of the project has been training 24 local water point committees, made up of members of the community. They have learned how to maintain and fix the boreholes with a package of tools they have been given by the Red Cross. They then mobilise the community to raise funds for maintenance and spare parts.

Memory, is the secretary for the water committee in Kondo, and coordinates their regular meetings. She also recruits new members.

"It is important that everyone feels ownership of the borehole and then they are more likely to keep it clean. Before everyone used to call it a Red Cross water committee but now they call it our water committee", explains Memory.

Memory also volunteers as a Red Cross health and hygiene promoter and has taught 150 people in her community about how to stay safe and healthy.

"I tell people how important it is to keep the area round the borehole clean and not to let animals near it. Everyone is taught to wash their hands before they collect water too", explains, Memory.

She visits homes with grandmother-of-nine Zvironzo Mcambo, 70,

"We educate people in their homes about keeping safe and healthy. We tell them to make sure they wash their hands and their buckets before they fetch water. I make sure the borehole is swept clean of dirt and that animals are kept well away from it."

Mabhiza School, Chipinge – The Head teacher's story



A bowl of porridge is something the pupils at Mabhiza School enjoy every morning – but just six months ago this wasn't possible.

The school in Chipinge, which teaches more than 1,600 children, had no clean water source until July. Children as young as four had to cross a busy main road, to fetch buckets of water from a well. Dirty water which would often leave them ill.

Now, thanks to the funding from Isle of Man the school has a brand new borehole and children are healthier.

"Before the borehole about 60 children would go home sick a day with illnesses like diarrhoea and dysentery", explains Headteacher Rita Makiwabeni.

"We also used to worry about them crossing the road, as it's so dangerous. But now thanks to the Red Cross we have as much clean water as we need to drink. We also have water we can use to wash our hands and clean the toilets."

"Because of clean water we can now make the children a bowl of porridge. This is vital in helping them to concentrate and learn, as so many only receive one meal a day at home."

The programme aims to better prepare rural communities to withstand and recover from cyclical disasters and crises. Improving people's access to clean water sources is part of the five -year programme which aims to help 25,000 people. The impact of the first clean water source in 11 years is being felt throughout the school – from better grades to teacher recruitment.

Grandmother-of-ten Rita, 64, said:

"We used to find it difficult to recruit teachers and many would spend \$15 dollars a month of their own money to pay people to fetch water from the well for their pupils."

"But now many teachers apply to work here and thanks to the Red Cross the children's pass rate has gone up. Children are no longer absent from school or running off to fetch water when they should be in lessons."

Expenditure Report

Budget Line	GBP Budget	GBP Expenditure
Water point assessment fuel	356.40	560.24
Water point assessment Hotel Accommodation	184.80	359.45
Water point assessment Out of Hotel Accommodation	105.60	0.00
Water point assessment Perdiems	369.60	359.45
Borehole Drilling	4,620.00	10,708.42
Drinking water (Borehole Rehab)	15,840.00	12,505.43
Training of water point committees	4,752.00	3,008.20
Other Watsan Expenses (water trough)	1,900.80	1,010.28
PHHE training	1,980.00	2,833.43
Production of hygiene promotion material	1,980.00	743.68
Grand Total	32,089.20	32,088.68

Thank You

We are extremely grateful to the Isle of Man International Development Committee for their generous grant towards the Zimbabwe Community Resilience Programme.

Your grant has helped to build healthier and more empowered communities.

Thank you for your very kind support!